DDA Properties

662. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item published in the Indian Express of 8th July 1994 under the caption "Jakhanwal claim 'misleading' : No takers for DDA properties" ;

(b) if so, what are the points brought out therein and the extent to which the same are correct;

(c) how many commercial properties built by DDA over the years are lying vacant; and

(d) the details of these properties and the reasons for their being no takers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

News item regarding falling of water Table

663. SHRI G.Y. KRISHNAN : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether government's attention has been invited to the news item which appeared in the 'Times of India', New Delhi dated the 30th May, 1994, under the caption "With no checks on tubewells, Delhi water table keeps falling";

(b) if so, what are the facts thereof and the reaction thereto; and

(c) what measures have been or are being taken to check this alarming scenario on ground water in the Capital, in view of the worst-ever water crisis ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI P.K. THUNGON) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. According to the assessment of the Central Ground Water Board the ground water levels in Delhi during the last decade have declined by 6 to 8 meters in Mehrauli block, 1 to 5 meters in Alipur, Najafgarh and Nangloi Block, 1 to 2 meters in Shahdra block and 1 to 5 meters in the city block. The main reason for lowering of water table in the NCT of Delhi is dependance of irrigation on tubewells (State and Private). The supply of irrigation water to the various distributaries of the Western Yamuna Canal (under the control of the Haryana Irrigation Department) is getting reduced. The withdrawal of water from the private tubewells is not controlled by the State Government. Moreover, due to rapid urbanisation the ground water is also being used for drinking purposes thereby the water recharge under natural state is getting reduced. The withdrawal of ground water in some of the blocks is higher than annual replenishable recharge.

(c) As remedial measures, the Government of Delhi has stopped taking up any new scheme to install deep or shallow state tubewells in the NCT of Delhi. In addition the work of filling of local depressions/ ponds in the villages have been dispensed with, so that the same may act as points for recharge of ground water table.

Central Ground Water Board has also taken up a model recharge study for establishing operational technology of augmenting ground water recharge.

Allotment of Government Accommodation

664. SHRI O.P. KOHLI : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government residential houses are